GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3636
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to formulate an integrated forest conservation scheme to increase forest cover in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the target fixed for afforestation has been met during the previous Plan period and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government has set any targets for afforestation in the coming years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the details of the steps being taken/ planned by the Government to increase the areas under the forest cover in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is not considering formulating an integrated forest conservation scheme to increase forest cover in the country. However, to achieve the targets mentioned in the National Forest Policy to maintain 33% forest and tree cover in the country this ministry is implementing three major forestry related schemes i.e. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). While NAP is being implemented for afforestation of degraded forest lands, GIM aims at improving the quality of forest/increase in forest cover besides cross sectoral activities on landscape basis and the IFMS supports the forest protection, development and conservation related activities such as patrolling of the forests, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. An area of about 21 lakh ha has been approved for new afforestation with an investment of around Rs. 3700 crores under NAP since inception in 2000 till 2016-17. Under GIM an amount of Rs.174 crores has been released since 2011-12 to 2016-17 for preparatory and perspective plan. An amount of Rs. 141.81 crores have been released under IFMS during 2014-15 to 2016-17.
The fund under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), interalia, is also used in plantation activity including compensatory afforestation.

Afforestation/Tree plantation targets in the country under Item No.51 (a) (Area Covered under Public and Forest Lands) and 51 (b) (No. of Seedlings Planted) of Twenty Point Programme (TPP) is fixed by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) annually to States/UTs. Afforestation/Tree plantation achievements in the country under Twenty Point Programme (TPP) are compiled in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The details of State/UT wise Targets & achievements for Point 51(a) and Point 51 (b) during last three years are given in Annexure-I& II. The State/UT wise targets for the year 2017-18 are provided in Annexure III.

Tree Plantation/Afforestation activities are taken up cross sectorally by various departments, NGOs, Civil Society, Corporate etc. under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and also under different State Plan/Non Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Projects.

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